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Summary record of the first part (public)* of the 3159th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Wednesday, 1 April 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Salvioli

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* No summary record was prepared for the second part (closed) of the meeting.

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The first part (public) of the meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the annual report to the General Assembly

Draft annual report of the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/113/R.1)

1. **The Chairperson** explained that the draft annual report on the 111th, 112th and 113th sessions had been written jointly by Mr. Flinterman, the Committee's previous Rapporteur, and Mr. Vardzelashvili, the Rapporteur for the Committee's current session. It would be presented by Mr. Vardzelashvili.

2. **Mr. Vardzelashvili** (Rapporteur) said that the report had been drafted under conditions imposed by the treaty body strengthening system, which involved adapting to a different report format and limiting the document to 10,700 words. The reduction in words had been largely accommodated by removing texts which had previously been reproduced in the annual report, such as the Committee's Views. He found it regrettable, however, that the chapter analysing communications also had to be omitted for the same reason. That chapter would be published as a separate document and a link to it in English only would be included in the report. While acknowledging the positive contributions of the treaty body strengthening system, the above example illustrated just one of the ways in which the system had undermined the work of the treaty bodies and the States parties. Annex II, however, was an example of the successful adjustment to those limits by the secretariat, which had collated certain details previously dispersed throughout the report and succinctly reproduced them. Some information and statistics remained to be updated to reflect the situation as at the current session. The Committee had also been requested by the report editors to consider excluding the summary from annual reports, given the restriction on the number of words.

3. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to examine the draft report chapter by chapter.

Summary

4. **Mr. Vardzelashvili** (Rapporteur) said that he deemed the summary served a valuable purpose and should be retained.

5. **Mr. Rodríguez-Rescia** said that the only reason to delete the summary would be to make use of any extra words in the body of the report. That might be an option in the future but the summary should not be removed from the present report.

6. **The Chairperson** said that he considered that the summary was particularly helpful and agreed that it should be retained.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. *The summary was adopted.*

Chapter I. Jurisdiction and activities

9. **Mr. Iwasawa** said that the Committee was doing its best in unfortunate circumstances generated by the treaty body strengthening system. It was crucial that any links in the report were accessible and active for readers.

10. **Mr. Rodríguez-Rescia** said that, while recognizing that the drafters had done the best work possible under difficult conditions, he wished to add his voice to the complaints about the restrictions that had been imposed on the Committee. Such limits meant that the report did not contain the substance or any analysis of the Committee's activities. For example, the interactive dialogue with the General Assembly in 2014 was only noted

briefly in paragraph 50 and not related in detail despite the important events that had taken place there.

11. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee shared the concerns about the wholly unproductive reduction in the word limit. The attention of all treaty bodies should be drawn to that problem.

12. **Ms. Waterval** said that Mr. Zlatescu's name should be removed from paragraph 13 as he had not been part of the Working Group on Communications at the 112th session. In paragraph 14, Mr. Shany's name should be replaced by that of Sir Nigel Rodley.

13. *It was so decided.*

14. **Mr. Shany**, supported by **Sir Nigel Rodley**, proposed that the States parties which had recently withdrawn or issued derogations under article 4, paragraph 1 of the Covenant should be listed in paragraph 15, so that readers did not have to activate the link which would take them to a list of all derogations. The existing paragraph merely provided an explanation of the derogation.

15. **The Chairperson** said that the names of those countries should be added to the paragraph.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. **Sir Nigel Rodley** proposed that the concern regarding the word limits on documents should be inserted into paragraph 46.

18. **Mr. Rodríguez-Rescia** said that the words "absented himself" in paragraph 50 should be replaced with more positive language, since the Chairperson had attended and worked hard at the General Assembly meeting to which the paragraph referred. In addition, the reference to that same meeting in the summary mentioned the 113th session, which needed to be corrected to read 112th session, as in paragraph 50.

19. *It was so decided.*

20. *Chapter I was adopted subject to the requisite amendments.*

Chapter II. Methods of work of the Committee under article 40 of the Covenant and cooperation with other United Nations bodies

21. **The Chairperson** suggested that the title of section B should be changed to "Links with other bodies" [*Vínculos con los otros órganos*].

22. *It was so decided.*

23. *Chapter II was adopted subject to the requisite amendments.*

Chapter III. Submission of reports by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant

24. **Mr. Fathalla** said that references needed to be made in paragraph 65 to the States parties of which the periodic report was overdue by 10 years or more and to annex II, part II, where those countries were enumerated.

25. *It was so decided.*

26. **Mr. Shany**, with reference to paragraph 70, requested an update on the status of the overdue reports from South Africa and Bangladesh. He asked whether other States parties had been sent reminders regarding late submissions.

27. **Ms. Fox** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the periodic report of South Africa had been received and that the Government of Bangladesh was in the process of preparing

its report. The secretariat sent up to three letters to States parties whose reports were overdue before submitting them for consideration in the absence of a report.

28. *Chapter III was adopted subject to the requisite amendments.*

Annex I. Membership and officers of the Human Rights Committee, 2014–2015

29. **Mr. Iwasawa** noted that the first names, and not the surnames as should be the case, were in bold with respect to Ms. Jelic and Mr. Muhumuza and needed correcting.

30. **Sir Nigel Rodley** said that footnote (c) implied that Mr. Kälin had filled two posts simultaneously and should therefore be reworded.

31. **Mr. Rodríguez-Rescia** said that it should be ensured that the correct verb tense was employed in the report.

32. **The Chairperson** said that any discrepancies in tenses in the draft report were due to the gap between its compilation and presentation and that they would be rectified. He found it regrettable that the useful summary of communications, translated into all working languages, could not be contained in the report.

33. *It was so decided.*

34. *Annex I was adopted.*

Annex II. Status of reports and situations considered during the report under review, and of reports still pending before the Committee

35. *Annex II was adopted.*

36. *The Committee's draft annual report (CCPR/C/113/R.1) as a whole, as orally amended and subject to editorial adjustments by the secretariat, was adopted.*

37. **The Chairperson** congratulated the Rapporteurs and the secretariat for the excellent work they had accomplished, particularly given the restrictive conditions.

The first part (public) of the meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.